(a) whether Government is planning to increase transport facilities in the border areas, keeping in view the augmentation in all kinds of activities by China near the Indo-China border;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration with regard to construction of Joginder Nagar - Pathankot - Leh - Laddakh railway line, which is very important in this regard;

(c) whether Government has received any proposal regarding this railway line from the Government of Himachal Pradesh; and

(d) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. A new line to connect the Itanagar (capital of Arunachal Pradesh) with Harmuti (Assam) has been sanctioned in 1996-97 at a cost of Rs. 160.48 crs.. The construction work is in progress. A survey to connect Parashuramkunda (Arunachal Pradesh) with Rupai (Assam) has been conducted. Besides this, under the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project, a new rail line from Quazigund to Baramulla (117.90 kms) has been commissioned. The work of new line from Udhampur to Quazigund is in progress. Moreover, Border Roads Organisation is constructing 61 roads along Indo-China Border covering a total length of 3377 kms in five states as per details given below:

i)	Sikkim	:	03 roads
ii)	Arunachal Pradesh	:	27 roads
iii)	Himachal Pradesh	:	05 roads
iv)	Uttarakhand	:	14 roads
v)	J&K	:	12 roads

(b) to (d) Requests had been received from Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh for laying new railway line from Bilaspur to Leh and gauge conversion of Pathankot - Joginder Nagar with its extension to join Bilaspur - Leh line. The surveys for the proposed gauge conversion and new lines have been taken up. The survey for Bilaspur - Leh and Joginder Nagar - Mandi (on Bilaspur-Leh line) new lines have been completed recently and survey report is under preparation.

'Garib rath' train for BPL people

266. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has planned to introduce "Garib Rath" train for people living Below Poverty Line;

(b) if so, the details/facilities which are likely to be provided to people living Below Poverty Line in this regard;

(c) whether any funds were earmarked for this project during the current year; and

(d) the time-frame set for execution of this project indicating the progress made in this regard, till-date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Upgradation of railway stations before Commonwealth Games-2010

267. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to modernize/upgrade Amritsar and Chandigarh stations before the Commonwealth Games in October, 2010;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government is also planning to introduce heritage trains for tourists to Amritsar during the Games;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the plans of Government to provide good connectivity to the nearest tourist/pilgrimage centres from Delhi during the Commonwealth Games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) Amritsar Railway station is an "A-I" category station and Chandigarh is an "A" category station and minimum essential passenger amenities have already been provided at both the stations as per norms.

Further, Amritsar station has been modernized/upgraded under Model station scheme as well as Modern station scheme, Chandigarh station has been modernized/upgraded under Modern station scheme and planned for completion by March 2010 under Model station scheme. Following modernization/upgradation works have been completed at these stations:

Chandigarh -

(i) Improvement to entry and exist to ensure smooth flow of traffic;

(ii) Development of green patch circulating area;

(iii) Improvement to facade of station building;

(iv) Modernization of concourse;

(v) Modernization of Booking & Enquiry Office;